

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAPTER (HEBER CITY, UTAH)

THE CITY NAMED HEBER AND THE MOUNTAIN

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The Mountain and the broad expanse of the valley to the east would sleep for another eight decades. In 1825, Etienne Provost, a French Mountain Man and trapper, had reaped a harvest of beaver pelves and had left his name on a river and later the settlement of "Provo".

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By the spring of 1858 Provo cattlemen had moved their range stock to summer in the southern end of the valley.

The spring and summer of 1858 brought several restless frontiersmen attracted by the lush green of the meadow lands and the pristine beauty of the rolling highlands. In July of 1858 the first survey was made for the townsite. J. W. Snow, the county surveyor at Provo, laid out 20-acre tracts just north of present day Heber City. During the late summer and early fall, the cattlemen scythed, cradled and stacked a winter's supply of hay from the sub-irrigated bottom lands.

An early explorer, William Gardner, had seen the need of some sort of a road connecting the valley through Provo canyon. In 1855 the Territorial Legislature enacted a measure, ambitiously empowering William Wall, Thomas S. Williams, Aaron Johnson and Evan M. Green to "construct a road from the mouth of Provo Canyon in Utah County to the Kamas prairie".

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By the middle of 1858 the "Mormon War" had subsided just a bit and Gen. Johnson's troops were apparently peacefully garrisoned at Camp Floyd near Utah Lake. The pressing need of a road again presented itself. At a bowery meeting at Provo on June 6, 1858 Church President Brigham Young, leaving no possibility of misunderstanding stated, "A road up Provo Canyon is much-needed and we want 10 or 20 companies of laborers to go on it forthwith in order to finish it in about 15 days so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber where there is plenty of timber...we shall need about 500 laborers."

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With a fair harvest of hay and grain there were now 18 families determined to brave the long Wasatch winter. Some less determined were to return to Provo, preferring the amenities of "the city". The first birth recorded among the colonizers occurred in November—a daughter of William Davidson and his wife Ellen. Appropriately the little girl was named Timpanogos — the Indian name for the valley and The Mountain.

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The fact that the old names ap-
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The Mountain, the sleeping
...maiden, the majestic Timpanogos
...may yet be viewed as Padres
...Escalante and Dominguez viewed it
...in 1776 — glistening in the early
...morning sun, magnificently im-
...pressive, bejeweled by the perpetual
...glacier, reflecting with solemn
...mystery the legend of two—plus
...centuries as eternally endless, time-
...less silence.

"Once again do I behold these
...steep and lofty cliffs, That on a
...wild, secluded scene impress
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Date of Birth

Died

Where

Where

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Current Address

Chapter Affiliation

At Large

Not presently a member of SUP

GOLDEN ROAD

(continued from page 11)

Hoytsville, and Coalville to the
...mouth of Echo Canyon. Up to
...60,000 Mormon Pioneers plus
...additional thousands of soldiers,
...merchants, gold seekers, Califor-
...nians, and assorted "Gentiles"
...came down Echo Canyon to the
...Weber River. Most turned north to
...present day Henefer and into the
...Valley via Emigration Canyon. But
...some, including almost every
...important visitor to Salt Lake City
...between 1862 and the coming of
...the railroad in 1869, turned south-
...down The Golden Road to the City
...of the Saints. (See map accompan-
...ing this article.)

Since the new Headquarters are
...right on this old road, the S.U.P.
...might very well exploit properly and
...fully this fortuitous circumstance.
...For example, the trail could become
...an annual run sponsored by the new
...Pioneer Trail Relay Chapter, the
...road could be more thoroughly
...researched, marked, written up, and
...publicized, and part of the S.U.P.
...Library could be devoted to it. Old
...maps of the trail could be framed
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...the trail could be framed and
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The Golden Road was born of
...Parley P. Pratt's desire to find an
...easier way into the Valley. His
...search commenced in late June,
...1848, but it was not until the 1850
...emigrant season that it was at all
...ready for travel. Pratt hoped, in
...vain, to recoup his time and money
...by collecting tolls. An ad in the third
...issue of the *Deseret News* (June 29,
...1850) recommended his GOLDEN
...PASS! or, NEW ROAD
...THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS
...and listed his tolls which ranged
...from "1 cent per head of sheep" to
..."75 cents per conveyance drawn by
...two animals."

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